

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: **St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Corner of Church Street and Jefferson Rock Trail**

CITY OR TOWN: **Harpers Ferry** **2nd Congressional District**

STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54** COUNTY: **Jefferson** CODE: **037**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Bishop John R. Russell, Bishop, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia***

STREET AND NUMBER: **803 Cathedral Street, 1300 Byron Street, P.O. Box 230**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond, Wheeling** STATE: **Virginia, West Virginia** CODE: **51-54**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Jefferson County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Charles Town** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **History of the St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church 1830-1868**

DATE OF SURVEY: **October 23, 1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Harpers Ferry** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

STATE: **West Virginia**

COUNTY: **Jefferson**

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

* See letter of July 2, 1976, from ... in this folder.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church was 39 feet by 75 feet. It had four large arched windows on either side with an additional window in the one story rear vestry room. There were also five windows in the front of the church, three arched and two round, together with the door. There was also a steeple at the front of the church.

The interior originally had a high arched ceiling and a beautiful pulpit with the image of the Virgin Mary with the Infant Jesus in her lap.

The church was a one story brick building on a stone foundation with a false front. Four stone steps led up to the door. It was twenty-five feet to the eaves. By 1894, it had a slate roof.

Its exterior was drastically remodeled in 1896, and changed from its earlier pseudo-gothic appearance to the then popular post-Civil War neo-gothic style. In the remodeling, the terrace in front of the edifice was lengthened, bringing the new front of the structure back toward the west. The original structure was brick and the newer wall materials replaced the brick with granite of a greenish cast with window opening trim and coping stones made of red sandstone. The latter materials are not native to the area.

A slate roof dating 1896 was recently replaced with modern composition shingles. A new bell tower and steeple was erected at the southeast corner together with a recessed portico. These replaced the earlier central tower and entrance of the original structure.

An apse at the rear replaced a brick lean-to attached to the 1830 church. Central heat was installed in place of the stoves used earlier.

A two story stone rectory was built behind the church in 1853. It was pargeted and scored to resemble coursed ashlar. A cupola was centered on the roof's ridge line and has since been removed. A porch graced this structure, but it too has been removed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
 15th Century
 16th Century
 17th Century
 18th Century
 19th Century
 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1831 (cornerstone laid) 1896 (remodeled and enlarged)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
 Prehistoric
 Historic
 Agriculture
 Architecture
 Art
 Commerce
 Communications
 Conservation
 Education
 Engineering
 Industry
 Invention
 Landscape
 Literature
 Military
 Music
 Political
 Religion/Phil.
 Science
 Sculpture
 Social/Human
 Theater
 Transportation
 Urban Planning
 Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aside from the beauty of the structure, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is historically significant because it was the third church erected at Harpers Ferry and was the only one not located on government land.

The original tract of land on which the church stands was owned by Harpers Ferry's founder, Robert Harper. In his will, dated September 1782, he gave specific instructions to have a church built on the site he designated. Nothing was done until 1831 when the Wagner family donated the land to the Roman Catholic Church.

It was finished and consecrated by 1833 and has served the Roman Catholic faith from that day to this. A list of the pastors who served St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church from its establishment through the end of the Civil War include the Reverends John B. Gildea, Richard V. Whelan, John O'Brian, Joseph Plunkett, Andrew Talty, and Michael Costello. The Reverend Costello remained at the church to protect it during the Civil War; thus, it was the only church to escape serious destruction or desecration.

According to Bushong's Historic Jefferson County, Private Luke Quinn was one of the marines killed during John Brown's raid, and according to a paper done by the Reverend Charles Pfab, the Reverend Costello conducted the funeral of Private Quinn. After the funeral, Quinn was laid to rest in a nearby cemetery. In May 1940, a monument was erected over his grave.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pfab, Charles, Reverend, "Luke Quinn, Forgotten Irish-American Catholic Hero, A Credit to the History of the Catholic Church in the United States." Paper submitted to the Reverend Doctor Henry Browne in partial fulfillment of the course in the History of the Catholic Church in the United States from 1789 to 1852. Catholic University Summer Session, 1954.
 Magri, Joseph, Reverend and Dittmeyer, Walter E., "History of St. Peter's Church, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia." Centenary 1830-1930.
 Smith, Philip, "History of the St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, 1830-1868, Harpers Ferry National Monument." Research report prepared by the Park Historian on Oct. 23, 1958, revised March 11, 1959, research pro. no. HF-22B.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 19' 21.5"	77° 43' 54"				
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Ted McGee, Field Research Agent**

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: **October 6, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **WVU - Old Mountainlair**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morgantown** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Dr. Carolyn J. Zinn

Title State Liaison Officer

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

St. Peter's Roman
Catholic Church,
Harpers Ferry,
D.C.



